

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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The
National Intelligence
Daily

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1976

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

2 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1976

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Chile: The Human Rights Question

Our judgment that the Chilean government recently has substantially improved its practices in the area of human rights is supported by evidence collected by some of the junta's most persistent critics.

actions have gone a long way toward resolving the controversy over political prisoners.

The number of prisoners held by the government has declined sharply. [REDACTED] The number of those being tried or serving sentences are now out on bail, on parole, or under house arrest. The government is [REDACTED] taking steps to prosecute the activities of many persons already arrested; some 1,100 [REDACTED] have been granted permission to go into exile and about 800 of these have already left the country.

Despite allegations by local economists and Radio Bremen that many persons recently freed have been re-arrested and that unidentified bodies have appeared in the Santiago morgue,

they have been no new instances of illegal detention or killings. Although cases of continued disappearances are still pending, security forces do not appear to be engaged in the kinds of human rights violations that earlier seemed to have been committed.

Another sign of a more humane trend in government policy [REDACTED] local military zone commanders are using their discretionary powers under the laws of

law to reduce sentences. One regional commander [REDACTED] reported that the number of persons detained in his province had diminished from 145 to 2 within the past year.

President Pinochet may be getting—and having—advice to ease the tough security measures that have been in force since the coup three years ago. There is some information to suggest that the influence of hard-liners in the government has decreased and that Pinochet now thinks a new approach is justified by democratic transparency and the high cost of Chile's international isolation. [REDACTED]

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THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1976 3

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

4 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1976

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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